

Наукові перспективи
Видавнича група



УСПІХИ І ДОСЯГНЕННЯ У НАУЦІ



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Згідно Порядку формування Переліку наукових фахових видань України, затвердженого наказом МОН України від 15.01.2018 № 32, повнотекстовий доступ до наукових статей журналу представлений на платформі «Наукова періодика України» в Національній бібліотеці України імені В.І. Вернадського НАН України та в Національному репозитарії академічних текстів

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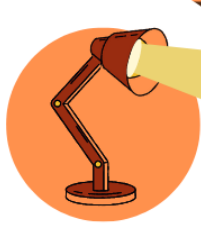
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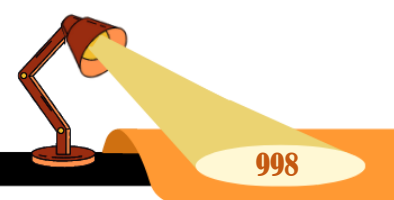
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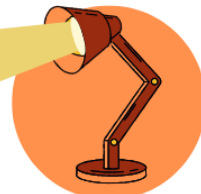
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REBUILDING LOCAL DEMOCRACY AFTER CRISIS: GOVERNANCE RESILIENCE BY TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION IN TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES OF UKRAINE

Abstract. The full-scale war in Ukraine has significantly transformed the functioning of territorial communities and local self-government systems, creating substantial challenges for democratic governance, public participation and institutional resilience. Under wartime conditions, territorial communities are required not only to ensure continuity of public administration and essential services, but also to preserve democratic legitimacy, transparency and interaction between local authorities and citizens. At the same time, prolonged crisis conditions increase the centralization of decision-making and complicate traditional mechanisms of local democracy. In this context, technological transformation becomes an important factor supporting adaptive governance and post-war democratic reconstruction.

The article is aimed to develop a conceptually grounded approach to understanding governance resilience in territorial communities of Ukraine through technological transformation under wartime and post-war conditions. The study systematizes the key components of governance resilience, including wartime





governance practices, digital governance instruments, adaptive democratic mechanisms and post-war reconstruction processes and analyses their interaction under conditions of external shock. Based on the synthesis of academic and analytical sources, the paper proposes a model of governance resilience by technological transformation, which conceptualizes modern technologies as an enabling democratic infrastructure supporting the transition from wartime administration towards adaptive democratic governance and sustainable post-war local democracy.

The findings indicate that technological transformation contributes not only to the continuity of governance and service delivery, but also to strengthening transparency, accountability, communication and citizen participation in crisis conditions. The study concludes that rebuilding local democracy after crisis requires the integration of digital governance instruments into a resilience-oriented and citizen-centered governance framework capable of supporting institutional continuity and democratic reconstruction under conditions of prolonged instability.

Keywords: local democracy, governance resilience, technological transformation, territorial communities, post-war reconstruction.

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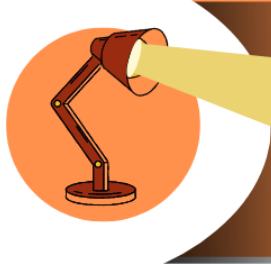
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ВІДНОВЛЕННЯ МІСЦЕВОЇ ДЕМОКРАТІЇ ПІСЛЯ КРИЗИ: ТЕХНОЛОГІЧНА ТРАНСФОРМАЦІЯ ЯК ОСНОВА СТІЙКОСТІ ПУБЛІЧНОГО УПРАВЛІННЯ В ТЕРИТОРІАЛЬНИХ ГРОМАДАХ УКРАЇНИ

Анотація. Повномасштабна війна в Україні суттєво трансформувала функціонування територіальних громад та систем місцевого самоврядування, створивши значні виклики для демократичного врядування, громадської участі та інституційної стійкості. В умовах війни територіальні громади змушені не





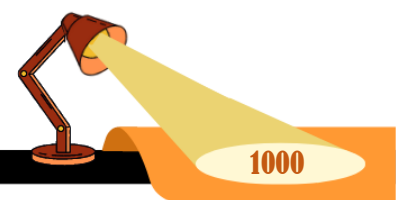
лише забезпечувати безперервність публічного управління та надання базових послуг, але й зберігати демократичну легітимність, прозорість та взаємодію між органами місцевої влади й громадянами. Водночас тривалі кризові умови посилюють централізацію ухвалення рішень і ускладнюють традиційні механізми місцевої демократії. У цьому контексті технологічна трансформація набуває особливого значення як чинник підтримки адаптивного врядування та післявоєнного демократичного відновлення.

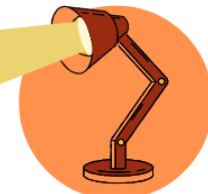
Метою статті є розробка концептуально обґрунтованого підходу до розуміння стійкості публічного управління в територіальних громадах України через технологічну трансформацію в умовах війни та післявоєнного відновлення. У дослідженні систематизовано ключові складові стійкості врядування, зокрема практики воєнного управління, цифрові інструменти врядування, механізми адаптивної демократії та процеси післявоєнного відновлення, а також проаналізовано їх взаємодію в умовах зовнішнього шоку. На основі узагальнення наукових та аналітичних джерел запропоновано модель стійкості публічного управління через технологічну трансформацію, яка розглядає сучасні технології як інфраструктуру демократичного врядування, що забезпечує перехід від воєнного адміністрування до адаптивного демократичного врядування та стійкої післявоєнної місцевої демократії.

Результати дослідження свідчать, що технологічна трансформація сприяє не лише забезпеченню безперервності врядування та надання послуг, але й посиленню прозорості, підзвітності, комунікації та громадської участі в умовах кризи. Обґрунтовано, що відновлення місцевої демократії після кризи потребує інтеграції цифрових інструментів врядування у стійку та орієнтовану на громадян модель управління, здатну забезпечити інституційну безперервність і демократичне відновлення в умовах тривалої нестабільності.

Ключові слова: місцева демократія, стійкість публічного управління, технологічна трансформація, територіальні громади, післявоєнне відновлення.

Problem statement. The full-scale war in Ukraine has substantially transformed the functioning of territorial communities and local self-government systems, creating new challenges for democratic governance, public participation and institutional resilience. Under conditions of prolonged crisis, local authorities are required not only to ensure security, continuity of essential public services and rapid administrative response, but also to preserve democratic legitimacy, transparency and interaction with citizens. Wartime conditions represent a multidimensional external shock that combines infrastructure destruction, demographic displacement, financial pressure, institutional uncertainty and the increasing complexity of governance processes. These factors significantly affect traditional mechanisms of local democracy, limiting opportunities for public participation and increasing the centralization of decision-

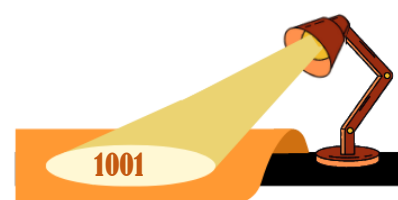




making at the local level. At the same time, territorial communities have become key actors in supporting social stability, coordinating humanitarian assistance and maintaining institutional continuity during the war. This demonstrates that governance resilience increasingly depends not only on administrative or financial capacity, but also on the ability of local governance systems to adapt democratic practices to crisis conditions. In this context, technological transformation acquires particular importance as digital governance instruments, e-services, communication platforms and transparency mechanisms allow communities to maintain interaction between authorities and citizens despite physical and institutional disruptions. However, existing governance models remain insufficiently adapted to the challenges of prolonged crisis and post-war reconstruction. Current approaches to local governance primarily address administrative efficiency, decentralization or digital transformation separately, while insufficient attention is paid to the integrated relationship between technological modernization, adaptive democratic governance and the rebuilding of local democracy after crisis conditions. This gap highlights the need for a comprehensive understanding of governance resilience in territorial communities as a technology-enabled and democracy-oriented system capable of supporting the transition from wartime administration towards sustainable post-war democratic reconstruction.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The issues of local democracy, governance resilience, decentralization and post-crisis reconstruction have been widely examined in both international and Ukrainian academic literature. In particular, foreign scholars such as D. W. Brinkerhoff, R. Lindner, G. Aichholzer, M. Rabinovych and V. Romanova have focused on post-conflict governance, democratic reconstruction, decentralization reform and the resilience of local self-government systems under conditions of war and external shock. Their studies emphasize the importance of institutional adaptability, participatory governance, multi-level coordination and the preservation of democratic legitimacy during periods of instability and reconstruction. Particular attention is also devoted to digital governance instruments, e-democracy practices and technology-enabled public participation as factors strengthening transparency, accountability and interaction between public authorities and citizens.

Ukrainian researchers, including H. Voznyak, K. Patytska, O. Mulska, V. Vyhovska and O. Dorofeev, have primarily focused on the financial resilience of territorial communities, decentralization reform, digital transformation of public administration and the adaptation of local governance under wartime conditions. Their studies examine the role of budgetary instruments, e-governance systems, digital public services and local self-government mechanisms in supporting community resilience during the full-scale war. Recent Ukrainian research increasingly highlights the importance of technological transformation in maintaining governance continuity, ensuring transparency and supporting communication between local authorities and citizens during crisis periods.



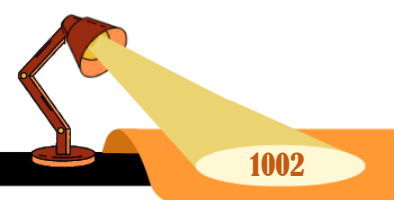


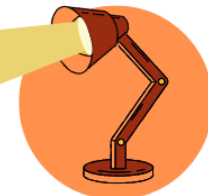
However, existing studies predominantly address governance resilience, digital transformation and democratic reconstruction separately. Insufficient attention is paid to the integrated relationship between wartime governance transformation, technological modernization and the rebuilding of local democracy in territorial communities after crisis conditions. This gap highlights the need for a comprehensive analysis of governance resilience through the prism of technological transformation and adaptive democratic governance.

The objective of this article is to develop a conceptually grounded and analytically substantiated approach to understanding the rebuilding of local democracy in territorial communities of Ukraine through governance resilience and technological transformation under wartime and post-war conditions. The study aims to systematize the key components of adaptive democratic governance, including wartime governance practices, technological mediation mechanisms and post-war democratic reconstruction processes and to analyse how these components interact under conditions of prolonged external shock. In particular, the article seeks to identify the limitations of traditional local governance models in crisis conditions, with a focus on reduced public participation, increased centralization of decision-making, weakened institutional trust and insufficient integration of digital democratic instruments within local governance systems. The objective is not only to conceptualize technological transformation as an enabling infrastructure for governance resilience, but also to highlight its role in supporting adaptive democratic governance, strengthening institutional continuity and facilitating the transition from wartime administration towards resilient, transparent and participatory post-war local democracy.

Presentation of the Main Material. The transformation of local democracy under wartime conditions in Ukraine demonstrates that governance resilience is increasingly determined not only by institutional capacity or financial resources, but also by the ability of territorial communities to maintain democratic interaction under conditions of prolonged crisis. The full-scale war significantly altered traditional governance practices at the local level, forcing communities to combine emergency administrative measures with mechanisms aimed at preserving transparency, public participation and institutional continuity. Under such conditions, technological transformation became not merely an instrument of administrative modernization, but an important enabling factor supporting adaptive democratic governance and the gradual transition from wartime administration to post-war democratic reconstruction.

The experience of Ukrainian territorial communities during the war confirms that local democracy under crisis conditions does not disappear completely, but rather transforms into a more adaptive and flexible governance model. Existing studies indicate that decentralization reform significantly strengthened the capacity of local authorities to respond to wartime challenges, especially in the spheres of social support, humanitarian coordination and financial management [1; 2]. At the same time, wartime





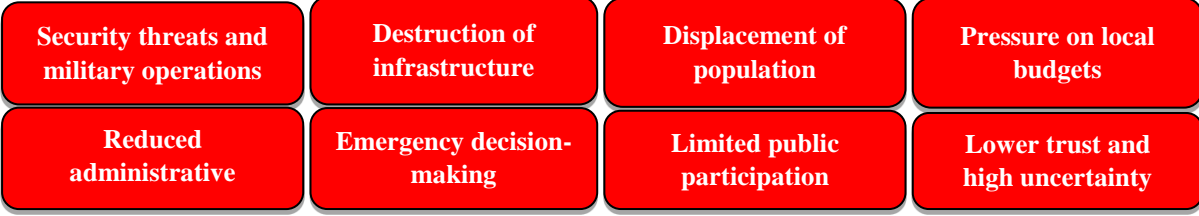
conditions generated substantial pressure on local democratic procedures. Communities faced reduced opportunities for public participation, increased centralization of decision-making and greater dependence on emergency administrative mechanisms. These tendencies created risks for transparency, accountability and long-term institutional trust. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development emphasizes that post-war reconstruction in Ukraine requires not only rebuilding physical infrastructure, but also reinforcing regional and municipal governance systems capable of ensuring democratic sustainability and citizen-oriented recovery processes [3]. Consequently, territorial communities increasingly operate within a dual governance reality. On the one hand, they are required to respond rapidly to security threats and resource shortages. On the other hand, they must preserve democratic interaction between local authorities, civil society organizations and citizens in order to avoid institutional degradation during crisis periods. This contradiction forms the conceptual basis for understanding governance resilience in the context of post-war democratic reconstruction.

The proposed model of democratic governance reconstruction by technological transformation in territorial communities of Ukraine (Figure 1) is based on the assumption that modern technologies function not merely as administrative tools, but as an enabling democratic infrastructure supporting the transition from wartime governance to post-war democratic reconstruction. The model conceptualizes this transformation as a sequential and interconnected process consisting of five major components: wartime crisis pressure, wartime local governance model, technological mediation layer, adaptive democratic governance and post-war democratic reconstruction.

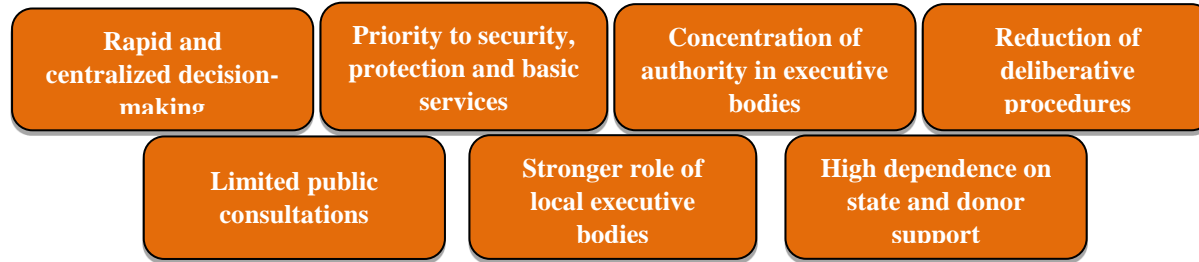




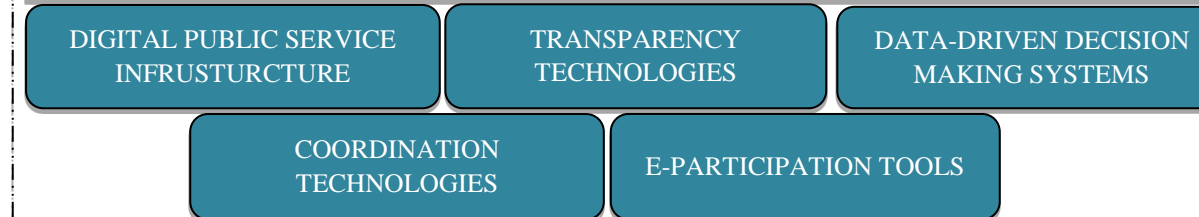
WARTIME CRISIS PRESSURE (EXTERNAL SHOCK INFLUENCE)



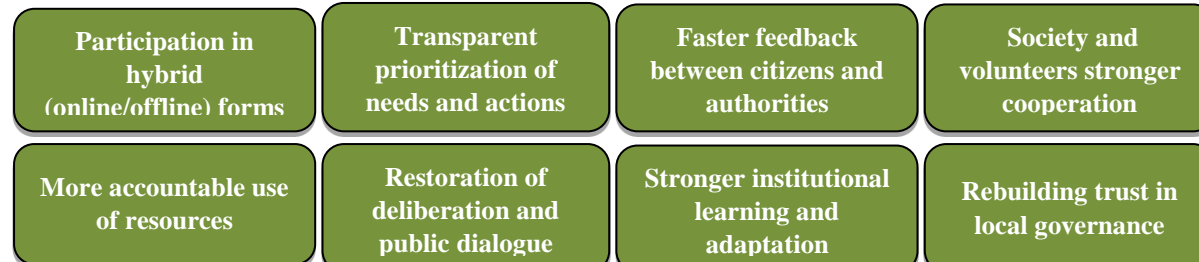
WARTIME LOCAL GOVERNANCE MODEL



TECHNOLOGICAL MEDIATION LAYER ("The Bridge")

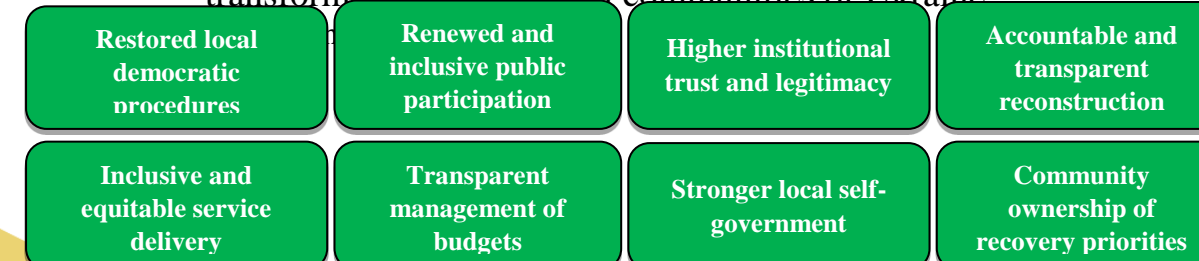


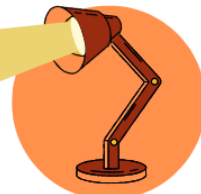
ADAPTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



POST-WAR DEMOCRATIC RECONSTRUCTION

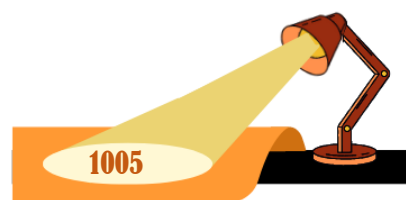
transformation in territorial communities of Ukraine

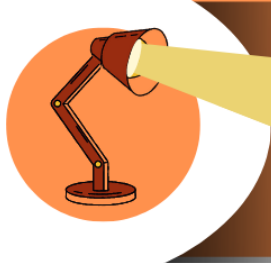




The first component of the model is wartime crisis pressure, which acts as an external shock influencing the functioning of territorial communities. The war generated multiple destabilizing factors, including security threats, destruction of infrastructure, displacement of population, pressure on local budgets, reduced administrative capacity, emergency decision-making, limited public participation and increased uncertainty. Previous studies demonstrate that these factors significantly altered the fiscal and institutional capacities of local governments in Ukraine [4]. The reduction of local revenues, redistribution of budget priorities toward security and humanitarian support and disruption of economic activity forced communities to reconsider traditional governance approaches and financial planning mechanisms. The destruction of infrastructure became one of the most critical challenges affecting local governance. Communities located near combat zones or subjected to missile attacks experienced disruptions in transportation systems, utility networks, administrative facilities and communication infrastructure. Under such conditions, local authorities had to shift from strategic development priorities toward crisis stabilization and emergency management. Simultaneously, the displacement of population created additional social and financial pressure on territorial communities receiving internally displaced persons. Local authorities became central actors in supporting displaced populations through the provision of housing, social services and humanitarian coordination, often exceeding their formal institutional responsibilities [1]. The war also influenced the democratic dimension of local governance. Public consultations, participatory budgeting initiatives and traditional forms of citizen engagement became more difficult to organize under martial law and security restrictions. Emergency conditions increased the concentration of authority within executive bodies and accelerated centralized decision-making processes. While such measures were often necessary for operational efficiency, they also reduced deliberative democratic procedures and created risks of long-term democratic weakening. Post-conflict governance systems frequently face tensions between rapid stabilization and democratic accountability, particularly when emergency governance mechanisms become prolonged [5].

The second component of the model is the wartime local governance model, which reflects the transformation of governance practices under crisis conditions. This governance mode is characterized by rapid and centralized decision-making, prioritization of security and essential services, stronger executive authority and increased dependence on state and donor support. Under wartime conditions, local governments must ensure operational continuity despite uncertainty, resource shortages and institutional disruptions. The necessity for rapid responses frequently limits the ability to conduct extended public discussions or implement traditional participatory procedures. At the same time, wartime governance in Ukraine demonstrated significant institutional adaptability. Research on financial resilience of

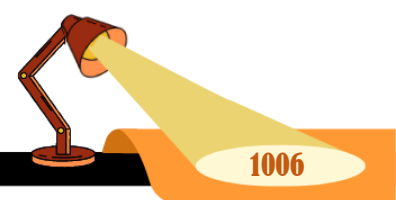


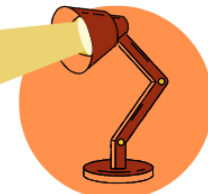


territorial communities indicates that many communities succeeded in maintaining budget stability and essential public services despite substantial economic shocks [6]. This adaptability was partially enabled by decentralization reforms implemented before the war, which strengthened local administrative capacities and expanded the authority of territorial communities in managing local resources and development priorities. However, wartime governance models can't be considered sustainable in the long term without mechanisms for democratic restoration and institutional balancing. Excessive concentration of authority, reduced transparency and limited public participation may gradually weaken trust in local authorities and reduce the legitimacy of reconstruction processes. Therefore, the transition from emergency governance toward adaptive democratic governance becomes a central challenge for post-war recovery [2].

The technological mediation layer represents the core element of the proposed model and functions as the bridge between wartime governance and post-war democratic reconstruction. The model conceptualizes modern technologies as instruments that enable local democracy to continue functioning under constrained conditions while simultaneously supporting institutional transformation during reconstruction. This approach differs from purely technical interpretations of digitalization by emphasizing the democratic and governance-related functions of technologies. The first technological block within this layer is digital public service infrastructure. Digital services, electronic document management systems, digital registries and online service platforms became critically important for maintaining governance continuity during wartime conditions. The digital transformation of public administration in Ukraine between 2019 and 2024 significantly strengthened the capacity of state and local institutions to provide services remotely and maintain administrative functionality during crisis conditions [7]. Digital infrastructure allowed local authorities to continue interacting with citizens despite physical restrictions, infrastructure damage or displacement of population. The development of digital public services also contributed to governance resilience by reducing dependence on physical administrative infrastructure. OECD studies on digital public services emphasize that digital governance systems improve accessibility, administrative efficiency and institutional flexibility under crisis conditions [8]. In the Ukrainian context, electronic service systems enabled citizens to obtain administrative support, access public information and communicate with local authorities even under unstable security conditions.

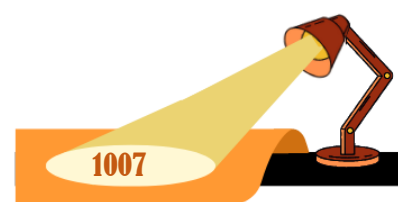
Another important technological block is transparency technologies. Open budget platforms, public dashboards, electronic procurement systems and digital monitoring instruments became increasingly important for maintaining accountability during wartime and reconstruction processes. E-budgeting systems significantly contribute to the financial resilience of territorial communities by improving transparency, financial

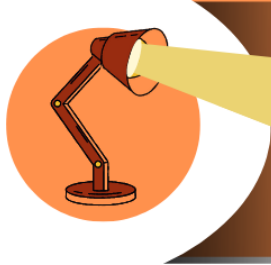




monitoring and citizen access to budget information. Transparent digital systems reduce corruption risks, improve donor confidence and strengthen public trust in local governance institutions. Transparency technologies are especially important during post-war reconstruction because reconstruction processes involve substantial financial flows, international assistance and strategic development priorities [9]. Without transparent governance mechanisms, reconstruction initiatives may face legitimacy challenges and reduced public confidence. Therefore, digital transparency tools act not only as administrative instruments but also as democratic safeguards supporting accountability and trust. The third technological component of the model is data-driven decision-making systems. Modern territorial governance increasingly relies on analytical systems capable of supporting evidence-based policy formation and strategic planning. Such systems include demographic monitoring tools, GIS-based infrastructure assessments, budget analytics, displacement mapping and AI-assisted scenario analysis. Digitalization significantly increases the sustainability and efficiency of financial systems through better data integration and forecasting capabilities. During wartime and post-war reconstruction, data-driven governance becomes especially relevant because local authorities must operate under high uncertainty and rapidly changing conditions. Accurate information regarding population movement, infrastructure damage, social needs and financial resources allows communities to allocate resources more effectively and prioritize reconstruction efforts [10]. In this context, technologies support governance resilience by improving the quality, speed and rationality of decision-making processes. The communication and coordination technologies component of the model focuses on maintaining interaction between local authorities, citizens, volunteers, civil society organizations and external partners. Wartime conditions significantly increased the importance of rapid communication and institutional coordination. Crisis communication systems, community alert platforms, digital volunteer coordination mechanisms and online feedback tools became essential instruments of local governance during the war.

The digitalization of communication processes in public administration substantially transforms the interaction between authorities and citizens by increasing accessibility and responsiveness. Communication technologies contribute to democratic resilience because they preserve public dialogue and institutional interaction even when traditional forms of participation become difficult or impossible [11]. In the Ukrainian case, local governments frequently relied on digital communication platforms to inform citizens about security threats, humanitarian support, infrastructure recovery and administrative decisions. An additional component of the technological mediation layer is e-participation tools. Digital participation platforms, online consultations, e-petitions and participatory budgeting systems help maintain citizen involvement in governance processes during crisis conditions. E-democracy instruments strengthen democratic participation by enabling

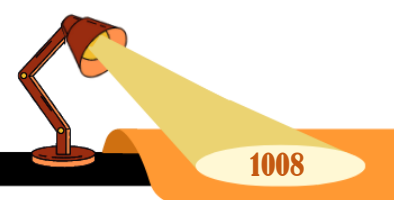


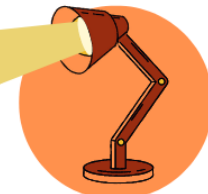


broader access to decision-making processes and facilitating interaction between citizens and public institutions. Under wartime conditions, such tools become particularly important because they compensate for reduced opportunities for physical participation and public gatherings [12]. The technological mediation layer ultimately contributes to the formation of adaptive democratic governance. This governance form represents a transitional stage between emergency wartime administration and stable post-war democratic reconstruction. Adaptive democratic governance combines elements of institutional flexibility, technological integration and democratic accountability. It allows territorial communities to preserve democratic principles while adapting governance procedures to crisis realities.

The adaptive governance component of the model includes hybrid forms of participation, transparent prioritization of community needs, stronger cooperation with civil society and more accountable resource management. Communities increasingly combine offline and online governance practices, creating hybrid democratic mechanisms capable of functioning under unstable conditions. Such systems strengthen institutional learning and improve the ability of local governments to respond to future crises. The strengthening of cooperation between local authorities and civil society organizations became one of the most important governance transformations during the war. Volunteers, local initiatives, humanitarian organizations and civic groups frequently acted as co-producers of governance and service delivery. This phenomenon significantly expanded the participatory dimension of local governance and contributed to institutional adaptability. Territorial communities with stronger civic interaction and public participation showed higher resilience under wartime pressure. Adaptive democratic governance also contributes to rebuilding trust in local governance institutions [13]. Trust is a critical element of post-crisis democratic recovery because prolonged emergencies, uncertainty and resource shortages often weaken institutional legitimacy. Transparent communication, participatory governance practices and accountable resource management help restore citizen confidence and reinforce democratic interaction. Good democratic governance in wartime and post-war Ukraine requires balancing administrative efficiency with openness, participation and accountability [14].

The final component of the model is post-war democratic reconstruction. The model conceptualizes reconstruction not merely as infrastructure restoration, but as the rebuilding of democratic governance systems capable of ensuring long-term resilience, participation and legitimacy. Post-war reconstruction therefore includes both material and institutional dimensions. The reconstruction process requires restoring local democratic procedures, renewing inclusive public participation, strengthening institutional trust and ensuring transparent management of financial resources. Communities must move beyond emergency governance models toward more stable and participatory governance systems capable of supporting sustainable development.



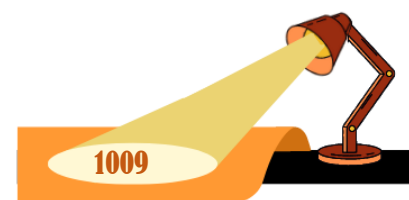


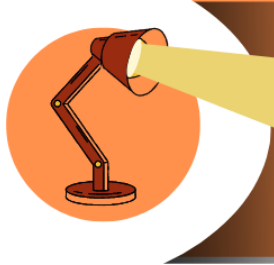
OECD reports on governance reconstruction emphasize that resilient local governance systems are fundamental for successful national recovery and democratic stabilization [15; 16]. Inclusive and equitable service delivery also becomes a critical element of post-war democratic reconstruction. Communities affected by war often experience increased social inequality, demographic fragmentation and uneven access to resources. Therefore, reconstruction policies must prioritize social inclusion and equal access to public services in order to prevent long-term social instability. Institutional mechanisms of public governance in the post-war period should focus on strengthening community cohesion, social support and local development capacities [17].

The role of technology within post-war democratic reconstruction extends beyond administrative modernization. Technologies become instruments for rebuilding democratic interaction, strengthening transparency and improving governance legitimacy. Digital transformation initiatives in the public sector may significantly improve coordination, accessibility and institutional responsiveness, particularly when integrated into broader governance reform strategies. At the same time, the model acknowledges that technological transformation also creates potential risks and challenges. Digital inequality, dependence on external digital platforms, cybersecurity threats and risks of excessive centralization through digital systems may negatively affect democratic governance if not properly addressed. Therefore, inclusive digital policies, legal safeguards, cybersecurity mechanisms and capacity-building initiatives [18] should accompany technological transformation. The proposed model ultimately demonstrates that governance resilience in territorial communities of Ukraine depends on the interaction between technological transformation, democratic adaptation and institutional reconstruction. Technologies function not as isolated technical instruments, but as democratic infrastructure enabling communities to maintain participation, accountability and institutional continuity under crisis conditions. The Ukrainian experience illustrates that local democracy can remain functional and adaptive even during prolonged wartime pressure when supported by resilient governance systems and modern technological mechanisms [19].

Consequently, rebuilding local democracy after crisis should be understood as a multidimensional process involving institutional adaptation, technological modernization and democratic restoration simultaneously. Territorial communities become central actors of this transformation because they directly connect citizens, public administration and reconstruction processes at the local level. The proposed governance resilience model therefore provides a conceptual basis for understanding how technological transformation can support adaptive democratic governance and contribute to sustainable post-war reconstruction in Ukraine.

Conclusions. The study demonstrates that rebuilding local democracy after crisis should be understood not only as the restoration of formal democratic procedures, but also as the transformation of local governance systems capable of adapting to





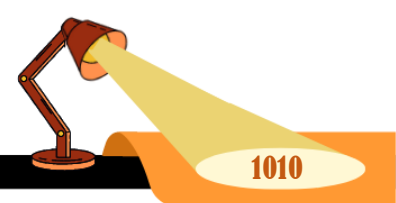
prolonged external shocks while preserving institutional legitimacy, transparency and citizen participation. The proposed model of governance resilience by technological transformation conceptualizes the interaction between wartime governance, technological modernization and post-war democratic reconstruction within territorial communities of Ukraine. The model provides a framework for understanding how modern technologies function as democratic infrastructure supporting adaptive governance under crisis conditions.

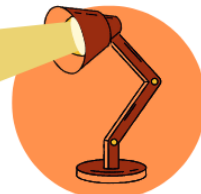
The results indicate that wartime conditions significantly transform the functioning of local self-government systems by increasing the centralization of decision-making, intensifying financial and institutional pressure and limiting traditional forms of public participation. At the same time, territorial communities demonstrate adaptive capacity through the integration of digital governance instruments, communication platforms, transparency mechanisms and data-driven decision-making systems. Technological transformation contributes not only to maintaining continuity of public administration and service delivery, but also to strengthening accountability, institutional coordination and interaction between local authorities and citizens.

The study confirms that existing approaches to governance resilience and digital transformation remain insufficiently integrated, particularly in relation to democratic reconstruction under prolonged crisis conditions. Addressing these limitations requires governance models that combine technological modernization with participatory and citizen-oriented governance practices. Overall, the findings highlight that governance resilience depends not only on administrative or financial capacity, but also on the ability to transform technological instruments into mechanisms supporting adaptive democratic governance and sustainable post-war local democracy. Further research should focus on empirical assessment of technology-enabled participation mechanisms and comparative analysis of governance resilience practices in territorial communities during post-crisis reconstruction.

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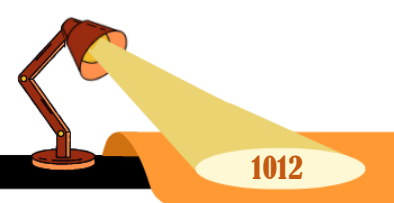
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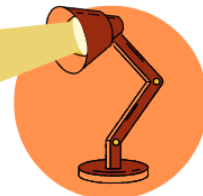




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